

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of

NASSIF et al

Atty. Ref.: 1721-34

Serial No. 09/928,457

Group: 1645

Filed: August 14, 2001

Examiner: PORTNER

For: DNA AND PROTEINS OR PEPTIDES SPECIFIC OF THE NEISSERIA  
MENINGITIDIS SPECIES BACTERIA, METHOD FOR OBTAINING THEM  
AND THEIR BIOLOGICAL APPLICATIONS

\* \* \* \* \*

VIA FACSIMILE 703 746-7279  
Examiner's Tel. No. 703 308-7543  
February 7, 2003

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Responsive to the Interview with the Examiner on January 28, 2003, entry and  
consideration of the following amendments and remarks are requested.

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Amend the claims as follows.

Cancel claims 33-64, without prejudice.

Add the following claims:

--65. (new) An isolated DNA which is *Neisseria meningitidis* (Nm) specific and  
hybridizes on a Southern blot to a DNA sequence of Nm strain Z2491 and does not